

29 November 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: SA/Information Control

SUBJECT : Proposed State Reply to Archives
Re Declassification Guidelines

With reference to the proposed State reply which accompanies Mr. Blair's memorandum of 14 November to Mr. Cline, two items suggest themselves:

a. Under the Executive Order 30-year-old documents are required to be systematically reviewed annually and the Archivist is to continue to protect only those which the head of the agency concerned "personally determines in writing at that time to require continued protection". This in effect amounts to an automatic declassification if the agency head fails to act. It seems possible that the volume of documents could be such that it could turn out to be impossible for the Archivist and the agency involved to accomplish the annual review. It would seem desirable to guard against inadvertent declassification resulting from any such situations by including in the proposed State letter a request that in the event any documents are not reviewed in the time required this fact be called to the attention of the department head prior to any action by the Archivist to remove them from protection and make them available to the public.

b. I would wonder if the Archives personnel have the necessary expertise to determine that intelligence sources and methods are or are not involved even with the benefit of the guidelines offered by the enclosure to the proposed State letter. It may be that CIA would want to review its documents, including those in the custody of the Archivist, rather than leave that function to the Archivist.



Associate General Counsel

Attachments

OGC [REDACTED] sin

Original - Addressee

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